



A Celebration of Life
for

Dari Susan Giles Pugh

Sunrise
November 20, 1961

Sunset
January 25, 2023

Friday, February 17, 2023

*Family Hour: 10:00 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.*

*From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746*

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor



Obituary

“A chapter completed; a page turned. A life well-lived, a rest well-earned.”

Dari Susan Giles Pugh, after 61 years of giving us joy and happiness, accepted her angel’s invitation to join our Lord in Paradise, on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. Our hearts are aching, but we know that Heaven is filled with an extra dose of LOVE from a beautiful Woman of God.

Dari was born on November 20, 1961, in Brooklyn, New York, as the only child of Loretta Commodore and Charles Edward Giles. Shortly after Dari’s birth, her parents opened a restaurant in the Beford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. Dari spent her childhood summers in Chase City, Virginia, at the home of her aunt, Ethel Henkins Giles.

In 1975, Dari and her mother, Loretta, moved from Queens, New York, to Landover, Maryland, where Dari received her public-school education while enrolled in the first graduating class of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. A gifted and talented student, Dari went on to matriculate at Hampton Institute (currently known as Hampton University) where she graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media Arts in 1983.

Dari discovered and developed her passion for writing while at Hampton Institute, and upon graduation, embarked on her career as a copy editor and ultimately a staff writer for the quintessential *Essence* magazine. She immersed herself into her work and after spending approximately three years with *Essence* magazine, Dari went on to freelance for *Black Enterprise* magazine, and other periodicals, and later spent several years as a travel writer, and a successful proposal and grant writer. Dari also possessed a unique talent for writing ad copy, as demonstrated by her entrepreneurial ability to sell just about anything. As a result, she started her own company, “Dari’s Deals.”

On October 13, 1990, Dari gave birth to a son, Michael Christian Giles, in Washington, D.C. At that time, she was the Resident Manager of the West End Apartment building, in the Foggy Bottom area of D.C., where she lived with her mother. Dari understood and appreciated the importance of education and demonstrated her skills by homeschooling Michael during his early adolescence.

As only fate would have it, Dari, and Philip Pugh, who, when she was thirteen and he was fifteen years old, grew up together as next-door neighbors and childhood friends, rekindled their acquaintance as adults, and on Saturday, August 4, 2001, they exchanged marriage vows. Their union joined two families—Dari and her son, with Philip and his children (LeShelle, Philip II, André and Brandon) from his first marriage. On July 16, 2002, the couple brought their daughter, Jasmine Christine Pugh, into the world.

Dari was the person to go to for a listening ear and a logical solution to any problem. She can be best described as a woman who shared and cared. Family meant everything to Dari. And she was one of those rare people whose sense of understanding, kindness, and affection made her a true and faithful friend and confidant.

Obituary *(continued)*

Dari was a nurturing wife, mother, step-grandmother, aunt, “sister,” cousin, and friend. Her family gave her so much pleasure and she loved hosting family celebrations and gatherings poolside. She especially loved decorating her home exquisitely and preparing family dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas. A good game would often be part of the family celebrations. Those who knew Dari knew that her favorite musical artist was Prince, as evidenced by her multitude of Prince memorabilia, and her involvement in the DC-Maryland Chapter of the Prince Fan Club. Dari also enjoyed traveling and turned her passion into a lucrative career as a travel writer. One of her most memorable assignments was when she embarked on a trip to Mali, West Africa. She also loved the Caribbean and traveled there and throughout Europe and Asia.

More importantly, Dari loved the Lord Jesus Christ. On May 12, 1996, she joined From the Heart Church Ministries where she served in the Intercessory Prayer and Prison Ministries. She will truly be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Dari leaves behind her mother and best friend, Loretta Commodore, to cherish her spirit and memory. She is also survived by her loving and devoted husband, Philip Roderick Pugh; son, Michael Christian Giles; daughter, Jasmine Christina Pugh; stepchildren: LeShelle Flagg (Thomas), Master Chief (Ret.) Philip R. Pugh II, André Pugh (Malika), and Brandon Pugh (Arnay); step-grandchildren: Lena Flagg, Saint Thomas Flagg, André Pugh, Andrew Pugh, Aaron Pugh, Amera Pugh, and Bryson Pugh; along with a host of other beloved relatives, extended family members and lifelong friends.

Dari was preceded in death by her son’s father, Michael Anthony Nixon, who passed away on August 1, 2006.



Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

*Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: Philippians 4:4-9*

Prayer of Comfort

Selection *FTH Psalmist*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

*Ms. Marisa Nixon, Sister-in-Law
Mr. Michael Giles, Son
Ms. Margaret Mitchell, Friend*

Poem *Mr. Luke Commodore*

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation *FTH Psalmist*

Message of Hope *Reverend Walter V. McLaughlin, III*

Call to Christ

Committal

Recessional









Then we went back... September 2015



Congregational Hymn

"AMAZING GRACE"

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound;
that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures,
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come, 'tis grace hath
brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun.*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of Dari Susan Giles Pugh expresses heartfelt appreciation for the prayers and overwhelming expressions of love, support, comfort, and condolences during this period of bereavement. We humbly thank you for the personal calls, visits, cards, gifts, flowers, and other expressions of kindness.

Your prayers and words of encouragement will be a source of strength in the days and months ahead. Thank you again!

In Jesus Name!

Amen



Services Entrusted to:
*J. B. Jenkins Funeral Home
7474 Landover Road
Landover, Maryland 20785*